

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/581,353

Filed: May 31, 2006

For: **TREATMENT UNIT FOR THE WET-CHEMICAL ELECTROLYTIC
TREATMENT OF FLAT WORKPIECES**

Inventors: Uwe Hauf, Henry Kunze, and Ferdinand Wiener

Examiner: Sylvia MacArthur

Art Unit: 1792

Atty Doc. No.: 084-06

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Commissioner for Patents

Filed Electronically

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of an Official Action in this case, dated January 22, 2010. However, as indicated in the Official Action Summary, the Examiner has checked both box 2a indicating that the Action is Final, and box 2b, indicating that the Action is Non-Final.

Clarification is requested and is urgently necessary, because such can significantly affect applicant's next steps in connection with this application.

It is submitted that, because this Action follows an RCE and claim amendments, the Office Action should have been a **Non-Final**. Accordingly, it is requested that this Official Action of January 22, 2010 be withdrawn, and that a new Official Action be made, clarifying that the Action is a Non-Final Action, as well as re-setting the date of the Official Action so that Applicant is not prejudiced by this mistake on the part of the Office.

No fee is believed to be necessary, but in the event that a fee is required the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Paul & Paul deposit account no. 16-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

JFM/

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